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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Vienna
19-30 July 1999

Provisional agenda of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

I. Provisional agenda

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3. Statement by the President of the Conference.
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda.
5. Establishment of the committees and election of other officers.
6. General exchange of views.
7. Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment.
8. Status and applications of space science and technology:
   (a) The environment and natural resources and remote sensing;
   (b) Navigation, positioning and location systems;
   (c) Review of space communications and applications.
9. Benefits of basic space science and capacity-building:
   (a) Assessment of basic space sciences and their benefits;
   (b) Education and training.
10. Information needs and the global approach:
    (a) Research needs;
    (b) Application needs;
    (c) Integration of multi-source data through the use of geographic information systems.
11. Economic and societal benefits:
    (a) Secondary applications of space technology;

(b) Ways and means of increasing the economic efficiency of space technology and its applications;

(c) Promotion of the commercial benefits of space activities;

(d) Ways and means of promoting international cooperation.

12. Promotion of international cooperation.

13. Activities of the Technical Forum.

14. Adoption of the report of the Conference, including the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan.

15. Closing of the Conference.

II. Annotations*

1. Opening of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISCPACE III)

The Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) will be convened at the Austria Center Vienna on Monday, 19 July 1999, at 10 a.m.

2. Election of the President of the Conference

In accordance with the agreement to be reached in the pre-Conference consultations, the Conference will elect its President.

3. Statement by the President of the Conference

Following the election, the President of the Conference will make a brief statement, providing background and describing the objectives of the Conference.

4. Adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda

The provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.184/2, annex) have been recommended for adoption, as approved by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference[1] and by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/45 of 3 December 1998.

The provisional agenda set out in the present document is based on General Assembly resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, in which the Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee as contained in its report on the work of its 1997 session[2] and the agreement to be reached in the pre-Conference consultations. (An indicative schedule of work is contained in annex I to the present document.)

5. Establishment of the committees and election of other officers

In accordance with rules 4 and 5 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference shall establish two Main Committees, Committee I and Committee II, as well as a Technical Forum

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* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Conference.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/53/20), annex.

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), para. 150.

as a technical body of the Conference. (A list of activities of the Technical Forum relevant to agenda items of the Conference is contained in annex II.)

In accordance with rule 3 of the provisional rules of procedure, a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed by the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-third session.[3] The Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

In accordance with the agreement to be reached in the pre-Conference consultations, the Conference will elect its other officers.

6. General exchange of views

Statements by Member States will be limited to 10 minutes.

In accordance with rule 14 of the provisional rules of procedure, organizations of the United Nations system and international organizations having permanent observer status with the General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space shall be permitted to deliver general statements in the Plenary limited to seven minutes. The full texts of such statements may be circulated in writing.

7. Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment

Reports of international organizations, programmes and initiatives, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites

Discussions will cover the latest scientific understanding of the nature and characteristics of climate change, highlighting information from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; the state of the environment, with emphasis on broad-scale changes in land use and land cover, atmospheric pollution and related issues (including the latest understanding of ozone), availability of and changes in surface water and related topics; and the state of knowledge on weather forecasting, atmospheric dynamics and severe storms.

Documents:

(a) Draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/3), paragraphs 57-80;

(b) Documents containing the results of the activities of the Technical Forum related to agenda item 7.

8. Status and applications of space science and technology

In reviewing items 8 (a)-(c), special attention will be paid to the scientific and technological developments that have taken place, taking into account the interests of all countries, in particular developing countries, with regard to global, regional and national issues.

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[3] The members of the Credentials Committee appointed at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly are China, Fiji, Jamaica, Mali, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

(a) The environment and natural resources and remote sensing

(i) Disaster preparation, warning and mitigation

Discussions will concern the state of knowledge of the use of remote sensing for disaster planning, including the ability to predict hurricanes, other severe weather events, floods, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes and the means by which such information can help in measuring damage from natural disasters and in assisting local officials in planning response and mitigation. There would be a discussion on the use of remote sensing techniques in assessing the condition of fire fuels and in monitoring and fighting fires.

(ii) Detection and mitigation of environmental hazards

Discussions will focus on the use of remote sensing for detecting and tracking pollution (both atmospheric and surface), including the latest applications for hazardous waste clean-up, as well as ozone depletion and the development of ultraviolet monitoring and warning systems.

(iii) Coastal degradation/management

Discussions will cover the use of remote sensing for monitoring the condition and possible degradation of marshland and coastal areas. The use of information on ocean colour for coastal management will also be discussed.

(iv) Seasonal-to-annual climate prediction

There will be a discussion of how scientific prediction of climate phenomena such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation affect agricultural, fishery and disaster management planning. An update will be given on the state of understanding and means by which information may best be shared. A discussion may be held on international activities in climate prediction.

(v) Agricultural enhancements

Discussion will focus on how remote sensing observations may increasingly be used to help improve agricultural planning, including in areas such as pesticide use, crop rotation, growth rates, control of infestation and precision farming. There will also be an update on uses of remote sensing to measure and forecast drought and desertification.

(vi) Resource management and planning

Discussion will cover the use of remote sensing in managing natural resources such as forests, grazing lands, wildlife and fisheries, as well as in decision-making related to urban planning and land use.

(vii) Freshwater management

Discussion will cover the use of remote sensing for the management of freshwater resources and the detection of contamination, depletion and so on.

(viii) Global health, including infectious diseases, their mitigation and prevention

There will be a discussion on the uses of remote sensing for the detection of infectious diseases and infestations and how the data gathered may be used to prevent the spread of disease and/or to identify environmental factors that could prevent the occurrence of disease.

(b) Navigation, positioning and location systems

(i) Availability of services

Discussion will concern improved ways of ensuring continuity in the availability of satellite-based position, location and navigational services, taking into account existing and planned cooperative and global navigational satellite systems.

(ii) *Enhanced capability*

There will be a discussion on enhancing international cooperation in satellite-based search and rescue systems, including development of common standards for ship and aircraft locator beacons, as well as on the use of microwave systems for geophysical studies and oceanographic research.

(iii) *Emerging applications*

There will be a discussion of the various uses of satellite-based position location services for scientific research, such as crustal dynamics, volcanology and other applications.

(c) Review of space communications and applications

Presentations will examine the capability of space systems to enhance existing systems and to improve communication infrastructure and will also review advances in space communications and their applications.

(i) *Cooperation in the planning, design, operation and utilization of satellite communication and broadcasting systems*

(ii) *The uses of mobile satellite communications and other new technologies, including low-cost, light-weight satellites in non-geostationary orbits*

(iii) *Other uses of satellite-based systems, notably for tele-education, tele-medicine and family welfare and emergency communications*

(iv) *Technical aspects of direct transnational broadcasting by satellite*

Documents:

(a) Draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/3), paragraphs 81-144 for agenda item 8 (a), paragraphs 167-183 for item 8 (b) and paragraphs 145-166 for item 8 (c);

(b) Documents containing the results of the activities of the Technical Forum related to agenda item 8.

9. Benefits of basic space science and capacity-building

(a) Assessment of basic space sciences and their benefits

(b) Education and training

A discussion will be held on the efforts currently under way to use space information and knowledge to advance the state and quality of education. Areas of emphasis will include teacher training, the development of current materials, the use of distance learning and mass literacy and mechanisms for greater international cooperation in educational efforts. There will be updates on international activities, such as the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment programme and activities of the International Space University and the European International Space Year, and a report from the special session on environmental education of the International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium, as well as comments from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

There will also be a discussion on the education of engineers, scientists and technicians in developing countries in the design and manufacture of space systems. Emphasis will be placed on the action necessary to establish a critical mass of experts to undertake those activities.

Documents:

(a) Draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/3), paragraphs 184-225;

(b) The report of the Space Generation Forum, containing its recommendations for consideration by the Conference for inclusion in its report;

(c) Documents containing the results of the activities of the Technical Forum related to agenda item 9.

10. Information needs and the global approach

(a) Research needs

There will be a discussion on the research information and capabilities required to address critical questions (such as global change, desertification, biodiversity and deforestation). The need for a global approach to such research, focusing on the needs of developing countries (i.e. scientific collaboration, data exchange and infrastructure issues), will also be examined.

(b) Applications needs

Discussion will cover the type of information and capabilities needed to address applications issues and an assessment of how current systems are meeting those needs. The focus will be on the types of information needed by developing countries to address pressing issues and the means by which that information can be acquired.

(c) Integration of multi-source data through the use of geographic information systems

There will be a discussion of the integration of multi-source data through the use of geographic information systems and transfer standards and presentations on innovative projects demonstrating that capability. Updates will be provided on the latest efforts to incorporate geographic information systems into local and regional planning.

Documents:

(a) Draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/3), paragraphs 234-251;

(b) Documents containing the results of the activities of the Technical Forum related to agenda item 10.

11. Economic and societal benefits

(a) Secondary applications of space technology

(i) Potential uses of space for manufacturing specialized and/or unique products and materials

(ii) Industrial and commercial applications of spin-offs from space technologies

(b) Ways and means of increasing the economic efficiency of space technology and its applications

There will be a discussion on how space technology can be "spun off" in order to benefit people's lives and well-being more directly. The routes to greater economic efficiency will also be covered.

(c) Promotion of the commercial benefits of space activities

Discussion will centre on the means by which space technology and observations can best be converted to commercial applications.

(i) Design, development and use of mini- and micro-satellites for space research

(ii) Reliable and affordable access to space, including the case of human space flight

(d) Ways and means of promoting international cooperation

Documents:

Draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/3), paragraphs 252-289;

Documents containing the results of the activities of the Technical Forum related to agenda item 11.

12. Promotion of international cooperation

There will be a review of existing and new mechanisms for international cooperation in space activities and consideration of ways and means of enhancing coordination and cooperation among Member States, the United Nations and the organizations of its system and other existing international programmatic and scientific organizations. There will be, *inter alia*, a panel discussion among major international organizations (the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and others) on how they might facilitate increased multilateral and bilateral cooperation.

There will be a review of the current status of the law of outer space, including ways and means of encouraging wider adherence to the existing international space treaties and principles.

Documents:

(a) Draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/3), paragraphs 290-342;

(b) Documents containing the results of the activities of the Technical Forum related to agenda item 12.

13. Activities of the Technical Forum

The Chairman of the Technical Forum will report to the Plenary of the Conference on the results and proposals made by various workshops, seminars, forums and symposia organized within the framework of the Technical Forum.

14. Adoption of the report of the Conference, including the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan

The Conference will consider the draft report of the Conference (A/CONF.184/3) and the reports of its plenary and subsidiary bodies.

15. Closing of the Conference

Annex I

Indicative schedule of work

	Agenda item		
Date	*Plenary* *Main Hall, Austria Center*	*Committee I* *Hall E, Austria Center*	*Committee II* *Hall F, Austria Center*
Monday, 19 July			
10 a.m.-12 noon	1 Opening of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) 2 Election of the President of the Conference 3 Statement by the President of the Conference 4 Adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda 5 Establishment of the committees and election of other officers 6 General exchange of views		
3-6 p.m.	6 General exchange of views		
Tuesday, 20 July			
9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.	6 General exchange of views		8 Status and applications of space science and technology
Wednesday, 21 July			
9 a.m.-12 noon and 3-6 p.m.	6 General exchange of views	7 Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment	

Date	Agenda item		
	Plenary *Main Hall, Austria Center*	*Committee I* *Hall E, Austria Center*	*Committee II* *Hall F, Austria Center*
Thursday, 22 July			
9 a.m.-12 noon	6 General exchange of views	7 Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment	
3-6 p.m.		7 Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment	8 Status and applications of space science and technology
Friday, 23 July			
9 a.m.-12 noon and 3-6 p.m.		9 Benefits of basic space science and capacity-building	8 Status and applications of space science and technology
Monday, 26 July			
9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.		9 Benefits of basic space science and capacity-building	8 Status and applications of space science and technology
3-6 p.m.		10 Information needs and the global approach	8 Status and applications of space science and technology
Tuesday, 27 July			
9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.		10 Information needs and the global approach	8 Status and applications of space science and technology
3-6 p.m.		12 Promotion of international cooperation	11 Economic and societal benefits
Wednesday, 28 July			
9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.		12 Promotion of international cooperation	11 Economic and societal benefits

	Agenda item		
Date	*Plenary* *Main Hall, Austria Center*	*Committee I* *Hall E, Austria Center*	*Committee II* *Hall F, Austria Center*
Thursday, 29 July			
9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.		12 Promotion of international cooperation	11 Economic and societal benefits
and			
3-6 p.m.	13 Activities of the Technical Forum	9 Benefits of basic space science and capacity-building	
	14 Adoption of the report of the Conference, including the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan		
Friday, 30 July			
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	14 Adoption of the report of the Conference, including the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan		
3-6 p.m.	14 Adoption of the report of the Conference, including the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan		
	15 Closing of the Conference		

Annex II

List of activities of the Technical Forum relevant to agenda items

(Vienna International Center and Austria Center Vienna)

Agenda item	*Title or description*	*Date/time*
7	Scientific Forum on Climate Variability and Global Change	Tuesday, 20 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	International Forum on the Integrated Global Observing Strategy	Wednesday, 21 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites: Workshop on Meteorological Satellite Systems	Thursday, 22 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on "Blue Planet, Green Planet"	Friday, 23 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
8	Workshop on Resource Mapping from Space	Thursday, 22 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Workshop on Disaster Management	Thursday, 22 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Workshop on Remote Sensing for the Detection, Monitoring and Mitigation of Natural Disasters	Thursday, 22 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Seminar on Environment and Remote Sensing for Sustainable Development	Friday, 23 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Seminar on Global Health	Friday, 23 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Round Table on Tele-education	Friday, 23 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Global Navigation Satellite Systems	Monday, 26 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Workshop on Telemedicine	Monday, 26 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on the Application of New Earth Observation Data	Tuesday, 27 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
9	Special Environmental Symposium: "Preserving the Astronomical Sky"	Monday-Friday, 12-16 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m. each day

Agenda item	*Title or description*	*Date/time*
9	Special Workshop on Education	Tuesday and Wednesday, 20 and 21 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m. both days Friday, 23 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Round Table on the Integration of Earth Observation into Secondary Education	Wednesday, 21 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Symposium on Recent Progress and Future Plans for Exploration of the Solar System	Thursday, 22 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Symposium on the Contribution of Space Techniques to the Exploration of the Universe	Thursday, 22 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Space Debris	Monday, 26 July 9 a.m.-1.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Mars Exploration	Monday, 26 July 9 a.m.-12.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Observations of Near-Earth Objects	Monday, 26 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Life Science Activities on the International Space Station	Wednesday, 28 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
10	Workshop on Geospatial Data Access	Monday, 26 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
11	Workshop on Small Satellites at the Service of Developing Countries	Monday, 26 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Developing Indigenous Earth Observation Industrial Capabilities in Developing Countries	Tuesday, 27 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Session on International Standardization for Space Systems	Tuesday, 27 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Clean and Inexhaustible Space Solar Power	Tuesday, 27 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Forum on Industrial Utilization of the International Space Station	Tuesday, 27 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
12	Workshop on Managing Space Programmes in Developing Countries	Tuesday, 20 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	High-level space industry panel: "Harnessing Space for Development and Exploration—A Global Vision for the Twenty-first Century"	Tuesday, 20 July 12 noon-1.30 p.m.

Agenda item	*Title or description*	*Date/time*
12	Session on the results of the 5th International Cooperation in Space Workshop: "International Space Cooperation: Solving Global Problems"	Tuesday, 20 July 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Forum on Space Activities in the Twenty-first Century	Wednesday, 21 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Panel of space agency and industry heads on the theme of the Conference	Wednesday and Thursday, 21 and 22 July 12 noon-1.30 p.m. each day
	Round Table on Cooperation and International Competition	Friday, 23 July 12 noon-1.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights in Space	Tuesday, 27 July 9 a.m.-12 noon
	Workshop on Space Law in the Twenty-first Century	Tuesday-Saturday, 20-24 July 9 a.m.-12 noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m. (no afternoon meeting on Saturday, 24 July)